

REMARKS

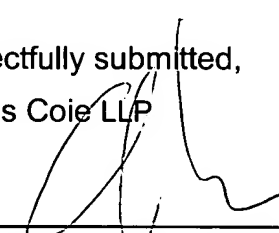
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated March 12, 2004, are respectfully requested.

Claims 42, 45-49, 51, 57-59, 61-63, and 65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blumenthal et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,784,460) and Takaragi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,117,458). The Examiner found claim 64 allowed and claims 43, 44, 50, 52-56 and 60 allowable if rewritten to include all limitations of the base and intervening claims.

To expedite prosecution, claims 43, 45-49, 51, 57-59, 61-63, and 65 are being canceled, claim 42 has been amended to include all the limitations of dependent claim 43, and claim 44 amended to now depend on claim 42. Claims 50, 52-54, 56 and 60 have been placed in independent form to include all the limitations of base and intervening claims. Claim 1, which was not rejected, is presumed allowable. The claims have also been amended to correct certain informalities, namely changing "said" to "the."

In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and patentably define over the applied art. A Notice of Allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-3599.

Respectfully submitted,
Perkins Coie LLP



Christopher J. Daley-Watson
Registration No. 34,807

Correspondence Address:

Customer No. 25096
Perkins Coie LLP
P.O. Box 1247
Seattle, Washington 98111-1247
(206) 359-8000